LANTERN

introduction

January 1976 marks the 5th anniversary of the formation of the Borderline Science Investigation Group. To mark the occasion this edition of Lantern presents a special 'birthday supplement', being mainly a review of the Groups activities and progress over the last 5 years. The supplement has been compiled by Denis Fletcher one of the groups founder members.

Once more we are reluctantly compelled to increase the subscription rates to Lantern, not because the cost of producing the magazine has increased, but because of the new postal rates. The new subscription is 75p per year (four issues) inc. P.& P. This will not affect existing subscriptions, only renewals and new subscriptions. Apologies to all affected, please blame the Post Office, not BSIG!

Two BSIG members, Nigel Pennick and Michael Behrend, together with Zodiac House publishers, have got together to form the Institute of Geomantic Research, which they hope will be a national co-ordinating body for geomantic researchers. Anyone interested should contact Nigel at 142 Pheasant Rise, Bar Hill, Cambs ● Zodiac house and Fenris - Wolf publishers have just issued their first joint catalogue, copies of which can be obtained from Nigel Pennick at the above address, or from Zodiac House, 7 Hugon Road, London, SW6 ● The latest MEGALITHIC VISIONS ANTIQUARIAN PAPERS to be published by Fenris - Wolf are: Nr.6 LOST TOWNS, the lands of Britain now submerged (20p). Nr.7 EAST ANGLIAN GEOMANCY, the landscape geometry of East Anglia discussed (30p). Nr.8 MADAGASCAR DIVINATION details of the little known Sikidy method of divination (20p). Nr.9 DENEHOLES & SUBTERRANEA details of subterranean caves and their uses (20p) all prices include P&P from 142 Pheasant Rise, Bar Hill. (please make cheques etc payable to N.C.Pennick). ● HAUNTED LOWESTOFT, published by BSIG, is still available, price 40p inc P&P from the address below ● MYSTIC FORUM gives a sane, balanced, approach to occultism. Quarterly journal includes reports of meetings, articles, letters, andverts and new books, free to members. Full membership £2.50 per annum; annual sub to journal only is £1.40 post free, single copies 30p + 10p P&P. Meetings alternate wednesdays, 7.30pm at St. Margarets Hotel, 107 St. Margarets Road, East Twickenham. Diary of speakers and enquiries to The Secretary, 114 Kings Road, Kingston, Surrey ● IVAN BUNN (editor of Lantern) would be very pleased to hear of 'phantom dog' stories, either legends or first-hand experiences, from Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex ● WATSUP JOURNAL is the quarterly publication of the Wessex Association for the study of Unexplained phenomena. Membership is £1 per year, members under 18 and OAPs 50p, single copies of Journal 15p + P&P from Nick Maloret, 180 Lockswood Road, Milton, Portsmouth ● THE LEY HUNTER is the only magazine in Britain devoted solely to Ley lines and allied subjects. Published bi-monthly, annual sub is £1.50 from Paul Screeton, 5 Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Cleveland ● THE NEWS is a bi-monthly miscellany of Fortean news, notes and references. Nr.12 contains part 2 of 'Portrait of a Fault Area' a fortean study Leicestershire (well worth reading), plus; Meteorlogical Curiosities, Geophysical Curiosities, Ghosts and much more. Published bi-monthly annual sub is £3 inc P&P from BOb Rickard, Post Office Stores, Aldermaston, Berkshire ●

Unfortunately, we must end this introduction on a sadder note. THE WESSEX UFO RECORD, reviewed in the last edition of Lantern, has now ceased publication as the producers have found it increasingly difficult to issue regularly a publication devoted almost entirely to the phenomena of the UFO...

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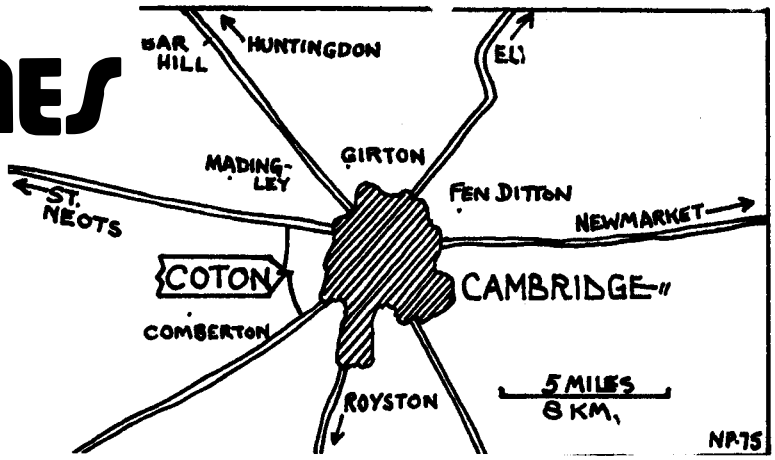
LANTERN is published quarterly by the Borderline Science Investigation Group, a non-profit making organisation devoted to the investigation of unexplained phenomena in East Anglia. Annual sub is 75p inc p&p; singles copies 19p inc p&p. Address all enquiries to The Editor, Ivan Bunn, 3 Dunwich Way, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 4RZ.

PUDDINGSTONES AT COTON

Nigel Pennick



In the late 1940s, Dr.E.A.Rudge, then principal of West Ham Technical College in London, announced in the Essex Naturalist the discovery of an ancient trackway marked by stones. These stones were not just any type of stone, but a special kind called 'Puddingstone', which is a characteristic conglomerate, a type of natural concrete with small pebbles embedded in a matrix. Because of this occurrence of small pebbles the stone was beleived to grow, being the origin of all pebbles found in the fields and hence was known as 'Mother Stone', and held to be sacred to the Mother Goddess.

Rudge's trackway (the 'Conglomerate Track') was finally found to run between Thatcham in Berkshire to Grimes Graves in Norfolk and onto the Wash (or wherever the coast line was in those days). Marked by stones every hundred metres or so, the trackway was held to be unique.

However, Ken Clarke (who is researching into pre-conquest stone crosses) and the author, have discovered a fragment of another trackway at the village of Coton near Cambridge. Having both read the works of Rudge we were on the lookout for stones of this kind. One of us noticed the large puddingstone next to a cottage at Coton (see illustration), and we looked round the village for more stones. Finally we found five puddingstones and a large slab-shaped sarsen stone in the village.

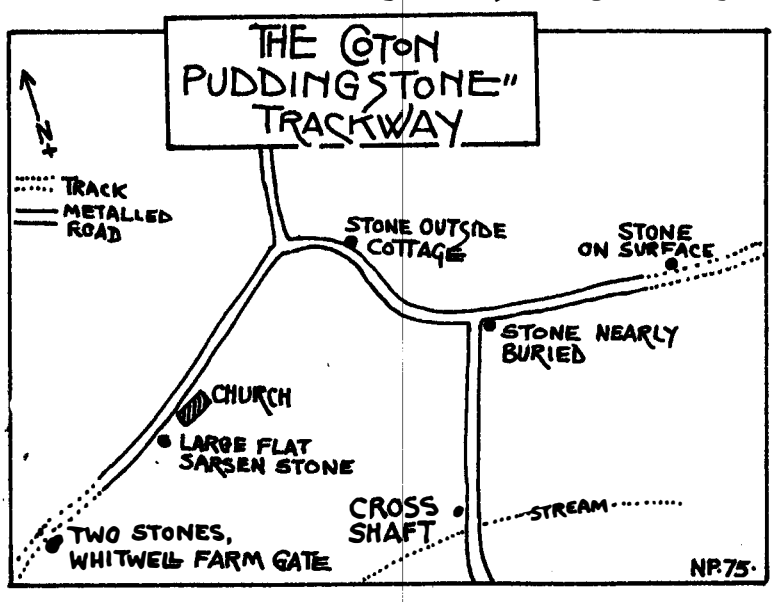
Just as Rudge had discovered stones on the surface, half-buried and nearly buried; so we found one lying on the surface, two hakf-buried and one almost completely buried.

The stones, as shown on the map, have the following grid references;

2 stones at Whitewell Farm gate:	TL 403586.
Stone outside cottage:	TL 412588.
Stone nearly buried:	TL 413588.
Stone on surface:	TL 416587.

These form four points on a possible trackway, situated in eaxactly the same way as those discovered by Rudge.

Also at Coton, on the boundary of the churchyard, on the axis of the church, is a large flat sarsen stone, grid reference TL 408588, probably a sacred stone marking an ancient pre-Christian enclosure, similar to the two stones at Gorleston, Norfolk (see Lantern 7). About a mile away, in an entrance to a field, we found eight stones recently torn from the ground, half of which were puddingstones. There were no signs as to where the stones had originated, though the spot was only a few hundred metres from where the ancient trackway to Coton crosses the road on which the field entrance is situated. Part of this ancient trackway, a mile further west, used to be known as 'The Portway', the name usually applied to the Roman road from Old Sarum to Silchester. Possibly this was a Romanised ancient British trackway. A puddingstone on Rudge's trackway was found in the ruins of the Roman amphitheatre at Verularnium (St. Albans).



Beyond Coton, on a similar east/west alinement, at Eriswell in West Suffolk is a Portway Hill and a plantation called Portway Heave. However we have not yet visited Eriswell to look for puddingstone evidence so

this theory must remain only a theory.

If extended eastward, the track would reach into the city of Cambridge. This path, known as the Coton Footpath, has no more stones visible, though it was diverted in one place so that an aeroplane factory could be erected on it in WW2. Central Cambridge is remarkably sparse of ancient stones as most of the medieaval parts of the town have been demolished since the last century and the streets have been altered.

The Coton series is the only occurrence of puddingstones so far noticed in the Cambridge area. +

A COTON PUDDINGSTONE

Biorhythms & Psi

——————— Ron Hill ———————

When considering why a connection should exist between ESP and bio-rhythmic critical days, it should be remembered that these particular days are those when ones physical, emotional and intellectual conditions are at a low and errors of judgement leading to accidents are likely to happen. It is not at all unlikely that the human body, or rather the subconcious mind, provides a greater degree of protection at these times by increasing any extra-sensory powers which we might posses. It is quite possible that we all have ESP powers in varying degrees, but do not use them conciously as we are not normally aware of them.

Virtuallt every experimenter who has tried to study ESP under laboratory conditions has been plagued with one problem: This being the problem of 'repeatability', without which there can be no acceptance in the scientific world. Dr. Joesph Rhine's famous experiments on ESP in America suffered in this way.

In the light of our preliminary findings, it would appear that when carrying out and analysing tests connected with ESP, the biothythmic state of the subject is of paramount importance to the results and their interpretation. A Re-examination of the scores obtained by Dr. Rhine's subjects, taking into account their biorhythmic phase at the time of each test, might well be revealing insofar as the accruacy of their guesses is concerned.

A further consideration is that if the apparent relationship between the biorhythmic state and ESP holds good, even if only for a proportion of the population, then it paves the way for beleiving that at certain times the subconcious mind is supersensitive, or perhaps passes more information than usual through to the concious mind. Can this be an explanation for those cases where ghosts, UFOs and other phenomena are seen or experienced by some people but not by others?

There would appear to be a wide field for further investigation along these lines and the writer would be most pleased to receive reports of any phenomena witnessed, together with the date of the occurence and the date of birth of the observer (all to be treated in confidence unless permission is given otherwise). The date of birth (date and year please) is most important for the calculation of the critical days around the time of the observation.

Whilst not many people will be seeing ghosts and UFOs, equally useful will be details of such things as a run of unusually good hands in cards during and evenings play, suddenly seeing someone that you had been thinking of but hadn't seen for a while, receiving a letter after thinking that you hadn't had one from a certain person for some time; in fact any instances of telepathy or precognition.

Your cooperation is most gratefully welcomed, and if BSIG can prove a definite relationship between biorhythms and Psi, it will represent something of a breakthrough in this most intangible realm of borderline science.

EDITORS NOTE: This concludes Ron's fascinating article, anyone wishing to contact him should write to: Mr.R.T.Hill, Warren Edge, Brandon Road, Thetford, Norfolk. If anyone missed the first part of this article, which appeared in Lantern II, copies are still available (see page 8 for details.)

MYSTERY AIRPLANES

W. J. CHAMBERS

In the early morning of August Ist this year, Ipswich people were startled by a very noisy aeroplane which flew over the town. One man said that the noise was so loud that it frightened him out of bed, and another that it sounded like a whole squadron of planes. A local aircraft expert considered that it was a machine of a type of which there are only about six registered in this country, but he did not appear to have much faith in his own theory, as he declined to have his name published.

A local lady, Mrs.D.M.Unwin, wrote to the East Anglian Daily Times that she had been in the WAAFs in the last war, but she had never heard a noise like it. The matter was taken up energetically by the Local MP, Mr. Ken Weetch, but none of the authorities concerned with aviation could throw any light on it, and it remains a mystery.

None of these good people apparently knew that there is a type of UFO which simulates, to a greater or lesser extent, an aeroplane of the conventional type, but which does not conform to any recognised rules of aeronautical behaviour. John A. Keel devotes a whole chapter to them in his book 'Operation Trojan Horse' (Souvenier Press, 1970). I am convinced that a similar machine flew over Saffron Walden on the evening of Sunday, September 7th.

It was very low and very noisy, the engine sounding 'rough' with a curious knocking sound at intervals. It took me a few seconds to see that our little Yorkie did not run into the street; I then rushed out, and it had about reached the Common, about 700 to 800 yards from my house, so it must have been going very slowly. It was too dark to see it, but it had red lights on both wing-tips and one on the stern. I think there was also one on the bow, but I am not sure about this. From the position of the lights it appeared to be large.

A lady I met later in the 'local' said it had passed over the building, and admitted that it scared her. A gentleman living at Little Walden said his dog, which ordinarily takes little notice of planes, was frightened and crawled into its basket. In her letter. previously quoted, Mrs. Unwin said her dog "just lay on the mat listening he didn't bark, I guess he was scared." Our own little dog did not behave in any unusual manner, but he is just a puppy and very excitable, so we should not have noticed if he had. The whole affair has caused a lot of talk in the town. + + + + + + + + + +

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ghosts and investigations at *westwood lodge....*

Westwood Lodge is an imposing 40 roomed mansion three quarters of a mile south of the Walberswick/Blythburgh Road in Suffolk. The building, which has stood empty for about I2 years commands a magnificent view across the marshes to the forest of Dunwich. In its hey-day it was the seat of the Lords of the manor of Westwood and stood in 240 acres of park land, long since put to the plough, although a small portion still remains, adjoining the house, called The Grove. In I39I the Manor of Westwood belonged to Michael de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk. By I465 it had passed to the Hopton family, who held it until I592, when Arthur Hopton sold it to Alderman Robert Brooke from Aspall in Suffolk. Alderman Brooke died in I60I and the estate passed to his son, Sir Robert Brooke. By I645 Sir Robert's eldest son John and his wife Jane were in possesion of Westwood. John Brooke was the 'black sheep' of the family, a wild and troubleson man who earned himself the nickname 'The Great Troubler' with the local people due to his constant interference in their, particularly with regards to the enclosing of Common Land. John Brooke died very suddenly in I652, aged 26, without issue. His widow married Sir William Blois who held his first court at Westwood in I660. The property has remained in the Blois family up to the present day.

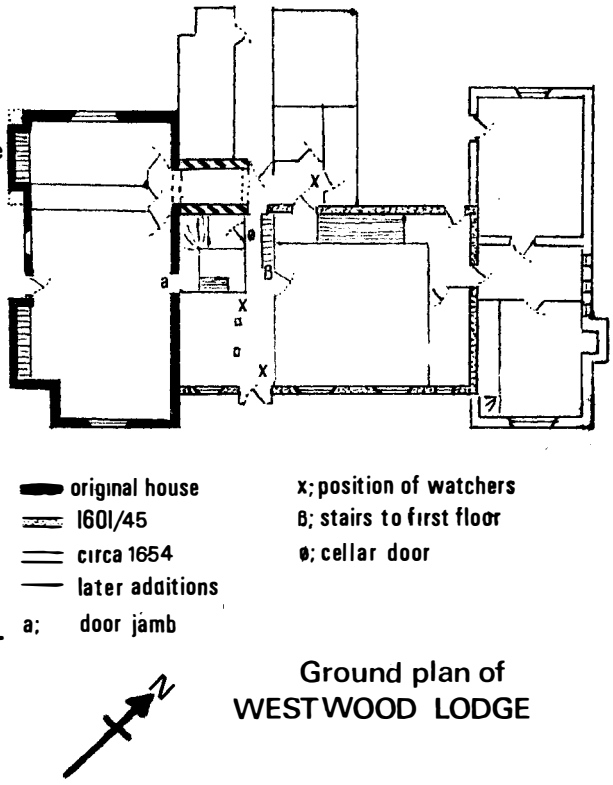
From around I600 onwards, there seems to have been a general trend of letting and re-letting Westwood Lodge right up until it became vacant I2 years ago. So it seems that although these various families owned the building they spent little time living there.

The earliest mention of a 'manor Hall' here occurs in an account dated I430, rendered for thatching the 'Long House' consisting of a hall, kitchen and great room. It seems unlikely that any part of this early structure exists in the present building, although it is interesting to note that in I6I4 Sir Robert Brooke's workmen were allowed 'ingress, egress and regress' while taking down what is described as 'th'old Long House.

Most authorities claim that the foundations of the present building were laid by

Sir Robert Brooke and that the house was finished by his son John in I652. These claims all seem to be based on a statement by a historian named Gardner who in I754 described the discovery of burnt material, bricks, stones etc., in The Grove. These he stated were the remains of an ancient house which had perished by fire(I).

However, strong evidence to the contrary was presented by M. Janet-Becker in the I930s. He in fact proves, from old leases, that part of the present building was in fact standing in I602 when Sir Robert Brooke took possesion. Becker further substantiates this claim with structural evidence in the present building. He discovered a stone door-jamb inside a cupboard on the NE wall of the present SE wing. It appears that this had been a rear entrance to a smaller building. Becker also discovered further evidence of this kind which he published in I935(2) enabling him to state conclusively that the SW wing of the present building is by far the oldest part, and that at one time it had been a smaller house facing SW (see plan), no doubt standing when the Brooke family purchased the property in I592. The present central portion of Westwood Lodge was built somewhere between I60I and I645. A more definite date can be put to the NE wing which was built in I654/55 by Jane Brooke. Down the years various out-buildings have been added, giving the building its rambling appearance.



Ground plan of WESTWOOD LODGE

In I835/36 the building took on its present appearance when extensive alterations were carried: The front was raised 3 feet, old crow-stepped gables were removed, the walls were encased in white brick and the old tiled roof replaced with one of slates. Inside, large rooms were partitioned off, fireplaces bricked-up, windows altered, the old broad-beamed staircase was removed and replaced with a smaller one. The buildings main entrance still faced SW, now over-looking the farmyard, so another was made in the SE wall, overlooking the marshes.

THE GHOSTS OF WESTWOOD.

Tales of a haunting here seem to have been in existence as far back as the early I9th century and perhaps even further. The earliest story we know of is the one where the apparition of a man rides up and down the corridors on a saddle! John Brooke ('The Great Troubler') has been connected with this phenomena. As stated earlier he died suddenly in I652. His death occured either just before a journey, or perhaps actually en-route, from London to Blythburgh. He was something of a horseman and it is said that it is his ghost that rides (or rode) the saddle. In I865, when an old cupboard was opned in the Lodge, riding equipment was discovered which, it has been suggested, had been put there in an attempt to 'lay' the ghost.

An interesting comparision to this tale can be made with the following story, told by a local inhabitant; Many years ago, a man was riding his horse a long a track which runs past the Lodge. As he arrived at a point outside the house, his horse stopped and refused to go on, supposedley having experienced some form of psychical manifestation. The rider fell dead from the saddle and presumably the horse died to, since its remains were interred in a nearby wall. Years later, when the ghost was being 'laid'these remains were discovered. These two tales could be linked in some way, perhaps the formar isa garbled version of the latter?

A more recent account of disturbances here comes from the East Anglian Magazine in I96I(3), which relates a story of ghostly footsteps and the apparition of a woman in a silk dress. The footsteps were heard by Mrs. Browne, wife of the farmer then living at the Lodge. She claimed that they paced the oldest part of house and, although present at night, they seemed more pronounced around noon. An old gardner also recalled what he and others had seen many years

ago: "We see'd a woman with a silk dress on, that's what we see'd. My mother see'd it often. We lived over the dairy, me mother an' me, and she see'd the ghost come out of Mrs. Cooper's study..." (a tenant farmer named Cooper is Listed in Whites Directory of Suffolk, 1844). In October, 1972, three policemen researched into the haunting and held an all-night vigil on the premises, the full details of which appeared in the local press (4). The policemen were told that "a lady in a long silver dress" had been seen numerous times over the last 60 years, both in the grounds and on the track outside. A previous gamekeeper claimed to have seen the apparition on several occasions and refused to go near the building after dark. The son of the present gamekeeper claimed to have seen it only 3 days prior to the policemen's visit.

According to the policemen, during their all-night watch, at 0120hrs, a length of cotton near the entrance hall was found dislodged from the tape securing it. A little later they heard a dull 'thud' from somewhere deep inside the house. One of the men reported a sudden drop in temperature, and the atmosphere became 'electric'. Several more 'thuds' were heard and the watchers switched on their tape recorder. Another 'thud' came from overhead and they stared at the staircase expecting something to appear. However, nothing was seen although the room once more became cold and a 'presence' was again felt. During the next 10 minutes more 'thuds' were heard, which ceased and the room became warmer. Nothing further happened and the party left at 0400hrs. Unfortunately we do not know the contents of the recording, but since nothing further was reported we can only assume that nothing of interest was recorded.

Armed with this information and the knowledge that the Lodge still had the reputation of being haunted, BSIG obtained permission from the owner to spend a night there. The watch was arranged for the 7/8 September, 1974.

THE INVESTIGATION.

Eight BSIG investigators took part in the watch, together with a number of electronic sensors and 'controls.' Unfortunately the weather was not kind to us on the day of the watch, a gale-force wind whipped across the open marshes from the sea and there had been heavy showers all day. It was late afternoon on the 7th by the time the whole team had assembled at the Lodge which, when approached along a muddy and decidely bumpy track, presented quite a chilling sight in the waning daylight and storm-tossed trees; straight from a Hammer horror film in fact!

Structually the building was quite sound, although there were holes in the roof and every window in the place was broken. All services to the building had been long shut off. A tour of the building was made by the investigation team, during which rough plans were made and measurements taken. Quite a task this proved to be as the place is a maze of small corridors and inter-connecting rooms. It soon became evident that our biggest problem would be the incessantly banging of doors and windows in the high wind. To over come this each window and door in turn was wedged either open or shut and then 'sealed' with thread and drawing pins. Even so this failed to erradicate all the bangs.

Whilst all this was going on the electronic equipment was set up. It had been decided to use the front entrance hall by the foot of the stairs as a 'base', this being the area in which the policemen had been when they had heard the 'thuds' etc, and it was almost directly below the corridor where the strange footsteps had been reported. No investigators were actually located in the 'haunted' corridor during the watch, this was monitored using the following sensors: Vibration Detectors, light sensitive devices, temperature sensitive switches and a sound monitoring device. All of which were connected to a central monitoring unit in the entrance hall. A thermograph, not connected to the monitor, was also placed in the corridor and gave a continuous trace graph of the temperature throughout the night.

Having finished all the preliminaries, the investigators split into pairs and were located at various points in the vicinity of the staircase. Each had with them a thermometer, tape recorder, and a camera. A 2 hourly rota was arranged whereby each pair took turns in

book review: A welcome addition to the literature of oddities is the paperback reprint of 'Haunted Britain' by Antony Hippesley-Cox (Pan £1.50). This is primarily a gazetteer of ghostland of a type already made familiar by Peter Underwood and Andrew Green, but it is a good deal compendious than their books, as it also lists witchcraft sites, mysterious stones, curious customs, legends and buried treasure. The sections on Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex are rather on the short side but adequate. It is well illustrated, with some in colour, and there is a useful appendix of maps showing how to get to the various places mentioned. The index is ample and it is altogether good value at the price. + + + + + + +

W.J.C.

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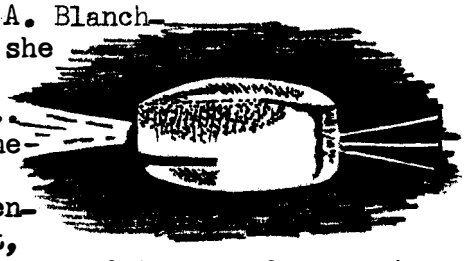
U.F.O. REPORT

Most UFO reports describe objects which, although varying in detail, are more or less of a similar shape; discs, domed discs, cigar shapes, spherical etc. However, from time to time reports are received of objects which do not fit into any of these broad categories. In this issue we present two such examples.

The first dates back to December 3, 1962, when Mrs. A. Blanchflower of Lowestoft woke up at 6.15am and describes what she saw upon looking out of her window: "...it was a thing which I can only describe as (like) the head of a whale... The sky was clear and dark and at first I thought that the object was a bright star, but I was struck by its funny shape, and when I looked closely I could see a band of generating light at the back and three bright rods. The rest, except for a dark band at the front, shed a luminous light as if it came from an inner source. The whole thing pulsated about every three minutes and as it did so more rods of light appeared at the back and a bright beam, like that of a searchlight, shone out from the front. On two occassions I saw an extra piece on the top, which was also luminous, as if I was seeing it from a different angle, and when the object pulsated, all the luminous parts shone more brightly...."



Mrs. Blanchflower said that the object was over the sea in a SE direction and as day light became stronger it faded from sight. She watched it for over an hour. (contd on page IO)

sitting in a car outside the building, in the drive, where the apparition of the woman had been seen.

By 2030hrs everything was ready, the equipment had been tested, and the team settled down for a long, cold and draughty, vigil. Generally speaking very little happened during the watch, but the following is worth noting; At 2040hrs, just after the equipment had been set-up, and while most of the team were upstairs, it was noticed that a vibration detector on the ground floor had been activated. At 2252hrs two, very loud, crashes were heard from the 'haunted' corridor. These were accompanied by the activation of a temperature sensitive switch and a vibration detector. Immediate investigation found the source of the noise to be a door in the corridor slamming violently during a strong gust of wind. At 0155hrs, investigators discovered that the thread 'seal' on the cellar door was broken. The door was still bolted.

Throughout the night the wind created very strong through-draughts in the building, which in turn caused poorly secured doors and windows to rattle and slam innumerable times despite efforts to ensure that they were firmly wedged. Naturally, as the wind abated towards morning, so the rattles and bangs decreased. After the watch was over, at 0630hrs, a circuit was made of the entire building to check door seals etc. No other seals were found to have been disturbed.

CONCLUSIONS.

As with all other investigations of this nature which we have conducted, no real valid conclusions can be made as to the nature of the supposed haunting, except by assesing the information collected during our stay in the building. We were unfortunate in choosing a day on which the wind was so strong, and the effects of which could distort our evaluation. The weather conditions at the time when the policemen visited the building are not known to us, but as the press report described the place as "shrouded in a sinister marsh mist" we can only assume that there was little or no wind. In which case, the noises which they heard could have had a more unusual explanation than the ones which we heard. This is a question which must be left open.

The old tale concerning the apparition on the saddle is really too old for us to investigate fully, and its link with John Brooke is, in any case, rather tenuous. The story of the lady in the long white, or silver, dress is well known around these parts, and is very interesting especially as she was said to have been seen only a few days before the policemens visit. Unfortunately we have been unable to trace this witness, or indeed anyone elsewho has actually SEEn this apparition. In consequence, as we have said earlier, we can only evaluate properly our own findings. Each occurence during our our watch will be evaluated in turn, starting with the activation of the vibration detector during the early stages. Although no-one was near the sensor at the time, it would seem that its activation might have been due to a 'settling-down' condition, the sensor having only just been placed on the floor. (The vibration detectors used during

this and previous investigations proved to be rather unstable and their use has been discontinued pending the designing of a more reliable instrument). Therefor liitle or no significance can be attached to this incident.

The cause of the crashes heard at 2252hrs was discovered and rectified. The vibration detector in the vicinity was activated, since that was its function, and is seems that the temperature sensitive device was activated by the same cold blast of wind that caused the door to slam.

The only incident for which no ready explanaion can be found, was the discovery of the broken thread across the cellar door. The cotton had been tied between the latch and a drawing pin in the door post, and both ends were still firmly tied. The cellar door was examined and found to be firmly housed in its frame, being secured with a large sliding bolt. It did not rattle or move at all when pushed, so it seems unlikely that draughts could have caused sufficient movement to break the thread. One possible explanation has been put foreward: Since the thread was stretched tightly across the slight gap between the door and the post, cold, damp air rising from the cellar through the gap might have caused the cotton to shrink enough to snap (like a tent guy-line in the damp). It is interesting to note that it was in this same area that the policemen also found a length of thread detched. They however had secured it with adhesive tape which might have worked loose in the damp building.

Since this incident was a copletely isolated one, with a possible physical cause, not to much significance should be attached to it, although it must remain the only 'unexplained' occurrence during our stay at Westwood Lodge.

Contrary to other opinions, we could detect no unusual 'tmosphere' in any part of the building. The temperature readings were all normal, although it did get very cold during the early hours of the morning in the draughty and unheated building.

Mr. E. Masters, of nearby Eastwood Lodge, wrote to the local press(5) after the report of the policemens activities, and claimed that all the noises at Westwood could be dismissed as quite rational. He gives cold draughty passages, creaking timbers, cats and rats as the cause of such phenomena. This seems quite likely, especially in a high wind and, although no rats or traces of them were seen in the building, several were seen outside. Poachers, trepassers and 'dossers' (there was plenty of evidence of the latter in the building), could perhaps account for a few reports of mysterious figures, although probably not all of them and especially not of a woman in white!

In summary, we found no unusual phenomena at Westwood Lodge, which could not be explained in terms of natural causes, during our brief stay there. Other people have found different things. It is interesting, as with all hauntings, to speculate whether the 'ghost' here is a subjective one or an objective one. Whether the apparition and its attendant phenomena are tangible, exterior, entities; or the product of a mind whose depth is as yet unknown. If a person thinks that a place is haunted, this knowledge could perhaps colour perfectly normal occurrences, and thus add to the ever-growing number of local legends. We remain as objective as ever concerning this alleged haunting, but it is our opinion that no psychical disturbances occurred during OUR stay at Westwood Lodge.

NOTE: This article is abridged from the Official BSIG Report of the investigations at Westwood Lodge, compiled by the Psychical Research Section.

SOURCES: (I): 'An Historical Account of Dunwich, Blythburgh, and Southwold with remarks on Some Places contiguous thereto' by Thomas Gardner. I754.
(2): 'Blythburgh' by M. Janet-Becker; I935.
(3): 'East Anglian Magazine', February I96I(Vol.XX;No.4;page2II).
(4): 'East Anglian Daily Times' 23rd October, I972.
(5): 'East Anglian Daily Times' IOth November, I972.

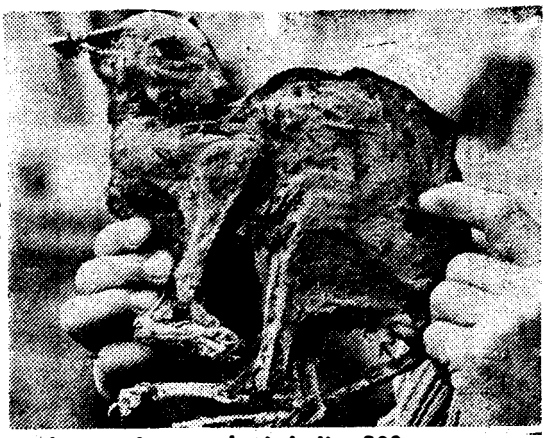
DONT MISS

SPRING EDITION OF

LANTERN

The following back-numbers of Lantern are available: Nr.5 articles include OLD SHUCK AT YARMOUTH and BRUSH WITH A UFO?; Nr.7 includes MYSTERIOUS STONES and THE GOOD PEOPLE: Nr.IO includes PHANTOM COACHES OF NORFOLK and SIGNES FROM HEAVEN: Nr.II includes UFOs OVER ALDEBY and BIORYTHYMS & PSI(part I). NRs 5 & 7 IOP ea. IO & II I2p ea + P&P; one copy 7p, 2 copies IOp, 3 copies I2p, 4 copies I5p. From: 3 Dunwich Way, Lowestoft, Suffolk.

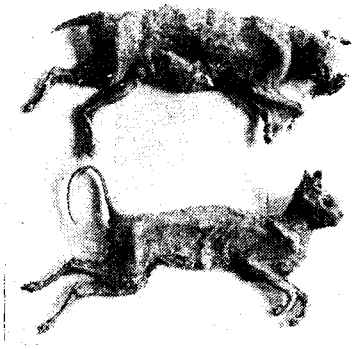
mummified cats!



The cat that was buried alive 300 years ago.

The Sunday People (November 9, 1975) carried a fascinating story of a mysterious mummified cat that had been buried alive 300 years ago at a mill in Sudbury, Suffolk, probably as some sort of votive offering to protect the building. It was discovered four years ago when the old mill was being converted to a hotel. A builder was given permission to remove the cat, after which many inexplicable things happened. Within 3 months the partnership financing the alterations at the mill ran out of funds and the project was abandoned: A studio to which the cat had been taken was completely destroyed by a mysterious fire, but the box containing the cat was untouched: Another fire destroyed a farmhouse at nearby Wickham St. Paul after the cat had been taken there: When the cat was returned to Sudbury, one of the beams at the mill (now known as the Mill Hotel) which was then nearing completion, shifted and the whole roof collapsed causing £60,000 worth of damage. The beam that caused all the trouble was at the spot where the cat had originally been found.

The new owners of the Mill Hotel project were told about the cat and at a board meeting decided to rebury it in the original grave within the mill. The local vicar carried out the burial and the hotel company placed a note in the coffin apologising to the cat for disturbing it and hoping that it will now rest in peace!



Since the cat has been returned to its original resting place, things have gone so smoothly at the mill the builders are now ahead of schedule.

It seems that the owner of an old house at Fakenham Magna in norfolk might have had a narrow escape, because when he was restoring a 400 year old house 2 years ago, two mummified cats were found in the attic. However, instead of removing them, the owner and his wife decided to let 'sleeping cats lie' and did not disturb the remains. Which, in the light of the disasters at Sudbury, seems to have been a very fortuitous decision, for there's no telling what disasters might have taken place if TWO mummified cats had been moved! +

LOCAL CURIOSITIES

Castle Hill at Thetford was, according to local legend, formed by the Devil. As he was flying over nearby Weeting he caught his heel on the ground and made a long ditch, Fen Dyke. The earth on his heel he scraped off over Thetford and it fell to the ground forming Castle Hill. A hollow on the hill is known as the 'devil's Hole' and it is said that anyone walking round 7 times at midnight will see the Devil.

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By the side of the road at Redenhall, Norfolk, is a willow tree known as 'Lush's bush'. It is so called because a suicide by the name of Lush is buried beneath it, and the bush is said to have grown from a stake driven through the persons heart to stop the ghost walking. One version says that the person buried there is a woman who took her life because she had killed her child.

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It was once common belief in Suffolk that Elderberries gather on St. John's Eve - the old pagan Beltane or Midsummer festival - would prevent the gatherer suffering from witchcraft. Quite often Elderberries and Elder pith were given to people who were thought to have been bewitched. It was also believed that lightning never struck Elder, and a cross made of this wood brought into the house would protect it from lightning.

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comment..

I would like to reply to Mr. Hill's comments on psychic photography in Lantern No.10. I think that photography of this type falls into three main categories viz:-

a) where an entity or form is seen to manifest itself. I must say that I have not experienced this kind of thing, but I presume that the manifestation could be recorded on film using normal techniques (assuming ones hands are not shaking too much!). I imagine that the best type of film would be normal high speed black and white or polaroid. I do not know whether the drop in temperature often reported at such events is phsycal or psychological. If the former is the case, then infra-red film could be used and, as Mr. Hill suggests, it should be a negative print. The newer colour infra-red would give more information and experiments along these lines might prove very interesting.

b) Psychic photography proper does not seem to depend on light rays, either visible or invisible. The objects we recorded appeared directly on the film and were not visible to those people present. It was also found that images could be recorded directly onto unexposed sealed plates. It seems to me that forces or rays, other than those we know of at present, are used to create such images.

c) 'Thoughtography' as practised by Ted Serios was mentioned in Lantern 9. It appears that by intense mental concentration, mental images can be projected and recorded on film. Does this indicate some, as yet undiscovered, thought waves?

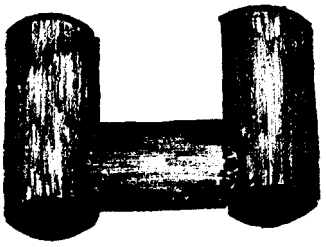
To return to the photographs which formed the subject of my article (see Lantern 9:Ed) I must state that, as far as I can remember, none of the photographs obtained had any particular significance to anyone present at the time. This would tend to rule out 'Thoughtography.

Like much so-called psychic phenomena, the photographs in themselves are trivial and of little value. However, in my view, the important questions are; what is the mechanism involved, and what are the implications?

J. Self,
25 Queens Drive,
Halesworth,
Suffolk.

UFO REPORT (continued from page 7).

During the spring/summer of 1972, 29 year old Mrs. Lillian Nettleship of Bradwell near Gt. Yarmouth, Norfolk, also an oddly-shaped object in the sky. Describing what happened, she says:"...One morning, around 12 noon, I was walking through Bradwell village to Gorleston with my small son in his pushchair...I looked up and saw a large dark-grey, 'U' shaped object going through the sky almost east to west. It partially disappeared through some light cloud, I had a very good look at it, and crossed the road to follow it, but as it went to fast for me I just stood watching it before it disappeared. I drew two other peoples attention to it but they just looked and proceeded to ignore it and me! I watched the object for perhaps 2½ minutes, during which time it made no audible noise. There were no lights, no antenna or other equipment other than the bulk of the object, also, on the surfaces which I could see from the ground, there were no windows...The closest description I can give is that it looked like 3 unprinted Coca-Cola cans stuck together. The colour was dark grey and it looked just as if it were made from matt metal."



WANTED: YOUR OWN PERSONAL STRANGE EXPERIENCES.....

Have you ever had a strange experience for which you have no explaination? If so, we The BORDERLINE SCIENCE INVESTGATION GROUP, would like to hear about it. Please write to;

The Editors (Lantern),
c/o 3 Dunwich Way, Lowestoft.

B.S.I.G.: the first five years.... by D. Fletcher

Local Psychical and U.F.O. research groups have a tendancy to be almost as ephemeral as the objects of their interest, the Borderline Science Investigation Group however, which celebrates its 5th. anniversary in January, seems to have avoided most of the pitfalls faced by such organisations. Now then, is perhaps as good a time as any to summarize some of their activities.

The B.S.I.G. was formed in January 1971 by a small group of people interested in what at the time was called, 'the unexplained', which included Ghosts, U.F.O.s, E.S.P., the occult, folklore etc. The aims of the group, as defined in the constitution of October 1971 being;-

"a/ To discover as much unusual and unexplained phenomena as possible in the region of East Anglia.

b/ To investigate in as scientific and unbiased a manner as possible all such phenomena.

c/ To document any findings in a scientific and unbiased manner.

Since then the B.S.I.G. has undertaken over 50 investigations, some 30 of which have been 'ghost watches'. In a limited space it is impossible to cover all of these in any detail, so most of the attention will be focused upon those which happened in the first three years of the group, which have not already been dealt with in Lantern. Those watches held in the last two years can be found treated in a fair amount of depth in the News Round-Up sections of the magazine.

Upon setting out in persuit of these aims the group encountered a lack of information on ghosts in the region - the main sources being local press cuttings, and the odd book in the library. Usually these contained only snippets of information, and failed to make the important distinction between 'current ghosts', that is, those which have been seen or heard recently - say in the last 10 years, and 'legendary ghosts' - those which have not been seen for hundreds of years, if ever. Consequently the group spent many fruitless nights looking for the latter type of apparitions.

The group had been in existence only a few weeks when it began its first investigation - into the 'haunting' of Lowestoft Town Hall. The story of this, found in the local newspaper, told of footsteps, and the sound of doors closing, heard by the caretaker, coming from empty parts of the building. Some of the results of the three watches held there can be found in Lantern Nrs. I & 3, but in brief, it was found that the footsteps were caused by a peculiarity of the clock mechanism, and the closing doors to the delayed effect of the piston-type devises used to stop them slamming.

The IIth. of June 1971 saw the second investigation, this time at Great Yarmouth. During the early part of June the press, both local and national, carried the story of the Dunsford family, whose sons, whilst on holiday in a caravan, were molested by an invisible prodding entity. This happened in the middle of their stay, the boys, frightened by the incident roused the rest of the family who found the caravan very cold, and had some difficulty in breathing. This unnerved them so much that they spent the remainder of their holiday with relatives. Following the publicity a number of psychical researchers and sundry interested people spent nights in the caravan during the week preceeding the B.S.I.G. visit, but the prodding entity was not encountered. At about 7:30pm on the IIth. the group arrived and decided to direct their attention to a bed in the N.E. corner of the 'van, which had gained the reputation of being the 'haunted bunk'. One member was to sleep there, in the hope of attracting the ghost, whilst the rest were to work a shift system checking the five thermometers in case of a repetition of the temperature drop. To cut a long story short, nothing noteworthy happened. So far as is known the Dunsfords experience in the caravan is unique, its owner had no knowledge of any unusual history connected with it, and as it was sold shortly after this, nothing is known of any subsequent events.

During the summer of 1971 the group spent a good deal of time investigating several of the legendary type of ghosts, and most of these took the forn of outdoor watches for the elusive , so-called 'annual' or 'cyclical ghosts. These are usually very spectacular and are supposed to appear regularly, usually once a year, at a specific date and time. There is little point in covering these in detail, and they can best be summed up in a quote from the first B.S.I.G. newsletter, dated February 1972 - a reterospective look at the first year of the group by the then chairman Michael Burgess:-

"...At Belaugh Church in Norfolk, we again had high hopes, but these did not 'materialise'. Our watch at the Horning Ferry Inn was also without result but

we later discovered that the grey lady only appeared on one day every 20 years - and we were 6 years too early.

The Great Melton coach and horses was another annual ghost (I think we are beginning to lose faith in these!), and our feelings at the negative results were not greatly enhanced by the downfall of rain that was experienced.

Our calculations were again found to be slightly astray after we spent the night, (The wrong night!) on the banks of Oulton Broad Dyke waiting for a ghostly wherry to come along. At Crazy Marys Hole, on Pakefield cliffs, the night was bitterly cold, and once again devoid of a ghost. The watch at Barton Broad for a ghostly lady was over before it even began, as by boat was found to be the only way of access to the correct site, and the members who attended were certainly not prepared for that."

As the above shows, the organisation on outdoor ghostwatches was perhaps not all it might have been in these early days. One point worthy of note however concerns the Ferry Inn at Horning, at the time the newsletter was written, we were under the impression that this belonged to the legendary class of hauntings. However we were later to hear the story of an angler who claimed to have seen the grey lady in 1928, on the river Bure outside the Inn. (See Lantern 9)

The remainder of 1971 saw little in the way of practical investigations, the lessons of the summer were being learnt, and the early equipment, which appeared on the later Town Hall watches was being improved. December saw the publication of the first issue of Lantern, in a markedly different form than it appears today.

The first watch of 1972 was held in a disused cinema in Beccles in January. Nobody seemed to know what the ghost was, and after a very cold, uneventful night, the watchers were of the opinion that the building was definately not haunted. As the year progressed, and the weather became more clement, the legendary and 'annual' ghostwatches were started again, this time it was known exactly when and where to look, and watches were held at Burgh St. Peter, Potter Heigham and Oulton Broad - all without result, although in the second case there was another group looking for the same ghost. This was to be the last time that this type of haunting was investigated in depth, research in the following months was to show that there was no record of the ghosts ever having been seen, in many cases the main characters in the story had never existed, and often the story itself dated back no further than the 1930s.

1972 was notable however for the start of the B.S.I.G.s longest investigation to date, that of the Oxfam shop in Magdalen Street, Norwich. This has recieved considerable mentions in Lantern, News Round-Up in Nrs. 3,7,8 & 9 contained reports on various aspects of the investigation, and Nr. 4 had a short article on the haunting. The phenomena at the shop have consisted of footsteps on the deserted top floor, doors opening and closing of their own accord, strange 'smokey' figures in various parts of the building, and the paranormal movement of objects. These had been witnessed by both the Oxfam staff, and the previous tenants of the building, who had all remarked on the strange 'unsettling atmosphere' there. During the first B.S.I.G. watch, in August 1972, the shop lights were switched off when noone was near the switches, and later in the evening a tape recorder picked up a female voice saying "Over there" or "Whose there", when no sound was heard by those operating the machine. Shortly after the second watch, in October '72, a seance was held in the shop, during which a 'spirit' called 'Sara' was contacted who was thought to be the ghost. Psychical activity in the building was at its peak at this time, and a spiritualist was contacted to exorcise the building. This seems to have been sucessful for no psychical activity has been reported there since, although peoplr still remark on the 'atmosphere'. This has been a very short account of the investigation, which stretched to almost three years, but when the final report is compiled, it is hoped to publish a Lantern 'special' to cover it in depth.

The Oxfam shop watches saw the introduction of the B.S.I.G. monitoring equipment. It has always been the intention of the group to approach its investigations in an objective way, and it was therefore considered necessary to have some means of detecting physical changes such as drops in temperature, often associated with ghosts, and draughts and vibrations which may cause effects which could be misconstrued as the activities of the ghost. The equipment, described in detail in Lantern 4 (Inside B.S.I.G. II), was designed so that sensors could be positioned throughout a building and be monitored by one person, thus making the watch more efficient.

A year later (1973) saw the group in an old Inn near Diss (See Lantern 4). The ghost here was of a white lady, who had supposedly been murdered by her husband. The 'haunting' affected only one room of the Inn, where the apparition of a woman in white has been seen to glide across the room. In the 1920s a woman staying in the 'haunted room' awoke to see a glowing ball

of orange light move along the mantlepieve. The psychical acitivits re started in a less dramatic way in '73 which prompted the B.S.I.G. visit, unfortunately it had ceased by the time of the watch, and so far as is known, has not reoccued.

The Autumn of '73 saw the publication of Lantern 3, the first of the 'new-look' editions, with more topical articles, and better illustraticns. This led to the Kirsted Hall watch (Lantern 4), and the B.S.I.G.s appearance on Anglia T.V.s 'About Women' programme.

1974 saw the result of a change in the Psychical Research Sections approach to investigations, legendary ghosts were to be recorded only, visits were to be made only when there was strong evidence of recent psychical activity. This obviously led to a reduction in the number of ghostwatches held, but meant that more meaningful results could be obtained. Details of the five watches held in '74 & '75 can be found in the News Round-Up sections of Lanterns 7 - 10.

The overall impression of the activities of the Psychical Research Section given so far is that it investigates hauntings only via the ghostwatch. This is not so, obviously a visit to the premises helps, for example, it might be that the 'ghost' has a natural explanation as with the Town Hall, but the group also just collects ghost stories and legends and documents them.

The other subdivision of the B.S.I.C. is the U.F.C. Research Section which deals, not surprisingly, with reports of Unidentified Flying Objects. As the 'ghostwatch' is the tool of the Psychical R.SS, so the Sighting Report Form is the tool of the U.F.O.R.S. This is a questionaire sent to the witness of a sighting assoon as the group hears of it, when completed it contains enough information to determine if the object can be identified ie. as a star, aircraft etc., or if further investigation is needed. In the former case the U.F.O. R.S. RECIEVES considerable help in identification from local bodies whose activities may give rise to U.F.O. reports eg. airports. If it cannot be identified, other steps may be taken, including interviewing the witness and visiting the scene of the sighting. Eventually, when all the information is in, the report is placed into one of five categories :-

A. All attempts at identification have failed. Two or more INDEPENDENT witnesses.
B. " " " " " " Only one witness.
C. Currently unidentified, though may have a normal explanation.
D. Scant report - not enough information to classify either way, or object seen for only a matter of seconds.
D(x) Object probably identified.
E. Object definately identified.

These are roughly the criteria used for classifying a U.F.O. report, this process is not permanant, and if new information comes to light it can be revised,

As U.F.O. reports are covered in Lantern, there is little point in repeating them here, insted below is a table showing the reports the B.S.I.G. has recieved for the years 1971 - 1975, with the results of their investigation.

YEAR	UNIDENTIFIED A	B	C	UNABLE TO CLASSIFY	IDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT	SATELLITE	STAR/PLANET	OTHER	E	UNDER INVEST	TOT
1971	2	2	1	-	-	4	1	-	1	-	11
1972	1	-	4	-	3	-	-	2	-	-	10
1973	-	-	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	-	8
1974	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
1975	-	1	-	2	-	1	2	1	-	3	10
TOTAL	3	3	7	4	4	7	4	4	2	3	41

As can be seen from the table, about 50% of the reports recieved can be identified fairly easily as man-made or celestial objects, and only 7% come into the category A class of report - the real unidentified objects.

The whole idea of identifying U.F.O.s is a fairly controversial subject, some bodies claim that all U.F.C. reports can be explained as natural or man-made objects, no matter how weird they seem, whilst at the other extreme therexare those who maintain that all reports are of extraterrestrial spacecraft no matter how like aircraft they seem. The B.S.I.G. treads the misty middle ground, in the beleif that to investigate U.F.C.s one has first to isolate the

really unidentified objects from the rest - a few genuine reports carry much more weight than many doubtful ones. To help with problems of identification, in the groups early days skywatches were held. As the name implies, these involved spending a night looking at the sky, and recording the objects seen there, this means at least that members know what aircraft and satellites look like at night.

At the moment the U.F.O.R.S. is working in liason with the Cambridge University U.F.O. Research Group and the British U.F.O. Research Association, to cover the whole of East Anglia U.F.O.-wise. The system works quite well, both the local groups recieve reports for their areas, and the B.U.F.O.R.A. uses them to build up a picture of the U.F.O. scene nationally. A system such as this is really needed in other areas as that all reports eventually find their way to a national collecting point.

Although Ghosts, Legends and U.F.O.s represent most of the groups activities it has, from time to time delved into other aspects of the supernatural, some of the most interesting examples of which are covered below.

The first such study wasconcerned with ley-lines (Straight-line alignments of ancient sites - for the uninitiated - thought once to have marked ancient trackways.), and was undertaken by the then U.F.O. subgroup in 1971 & '72. The modest aim was to produce 'the most comprehensive map in existence of ley lines in East Anglia!, and to this end nine I" Or dnance Survey maps were joined together. The actual study took something under a year to complete, and the end product was a map covered with many hundreds of lines, the first impression, if one took each line as representing a trackway, was of a huge neolithic Sphagetti Junction covering the whole of East Anglia. Something seemed to be wrong, so it was decided to start again, adopting much stricter criteria for each ley point. However, with this blow to their enthusiasm, and faced with the daunting task of going over nine I" O.S. maps with a rubber to remove the previous attempt, the researchers abandoned the idea. From time to time other, less ambitious studies have shown more promising results (See Lantern 6).

Astral projection (The idea that an intangible 'spirit' or astral body leaves the physical body when one is asleep, or in a similar condition), or more specifically, the idea that dreams are jumbled recollections of astral journies, came under the scrutiny of the now defunct Occult subgroup in 1972. Attractive, because it involved very little effort, the study consisted of recording dreams over a six month period, and drawing conclusions from them. The group found no evidence for supposing that dreams are in any way connected with astral travel, but did discover a lot about dreams.

Telepathy has been investigated by the,also now defunct E.S.P. subgroup, and more recently by the P.R.S. The idea being for one member to 'transmit' a symbol, the others to recieve the mental impression of it. Several such tests have been held, the biggest being in January & February '74, which involved nine members in Norfolk, Suffolk and Surrey. The tests have altogether not been an unqualified sucess, some members fimding it difficult toneven manage the numbervof correct guesses attributable to chance, although there have been some interesting results.

Those strange, one might even say mysterious, stones which dot the East Anglian countryside have recently been the centre of attention of part of the group, as readers of Lantern Nrs. 3,4,5,7,8,9, & II will no doubt have realised. The focus of interest is not so much the stones themselves, as the legends associated with them and their uses throughout history.

The B.S.I.G.s most recent investigation is concerned with dowsing, most widely known in its application as water divining, although other substances can be found by this method. Experiments to date have covered the use of the 'tuned pendulum' to locate hidden objects, as well as the more traditional rods. Planned for the future is a series of experiments involving map dowsing.

This then is a picture, nescessarily a breif one, of the activities of the group ovet the last 5 years. During this time it has grown from the initial 6 or so members concentrating on the Lowestoft,Yarmouth, Norwich area to the present 32 covering Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire, with a branch in Cambridge. At present the group is concentrating on making more of its collected information available through publications such as Lantern, and through the media of illustrated lectures. Then at least other people will not find the problem that the early B.S.I.G. did.

A group such as this depends to a large extent on feedback from the public, so if you've seen a U.F.O. or know of a ghost gstory or legend, or are just interested in the group, don't hesitate to get in touch - you'll find some adresses elsewhere in the magazine.